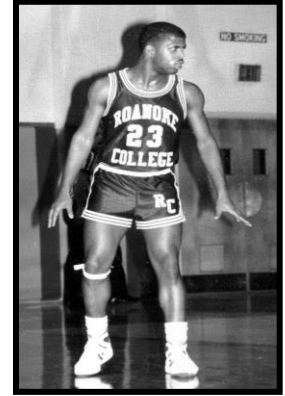


BEN BETTS

A life devoted to basketball, first as a player and now as a coach who continues to build an extensive résumé – that is how Ben Betts can be known, commencing with his early participation with the Sonics, a championship team led by Rev. Leonard Harris, in the Amherst County Recreation League program.

Betts' parents, Shirley and the late Benjamin Betts, Sr., supported their son with resources and consistent attendance at games throughout his playing career. He also names Hall of Fame Coach Ernie Guill as having tremendous impact on his development, both as a basketball player and as a person.



Described presciently as “a coach on the court” and a player who could control the tempo of the game, he earned All-District and All-Area designations his junior and senior years at ACHS. His senior season, the Lancers won the district and participated in the regional championship.

His abilities led him to Roanoke College, where he was a four-year letterman with the Maroons. There he played for coaches Ed Green and Page Moir and enjoyed one year as Old Dominion Athletic Conference champion, advancing to the NCAA Division III tournament.

Ben Betts' most far-reaching contributions to basketball emanate from his work as a coach, having helped in the development of many players. The University of Oklahoma team in 2009-10, with Ben Betts as assistant coach under Jeff Capel, won the pre-season NIT and advanced to the “Elite Eight” in the NCAA tournament. Among his players who have been drafted by the NBA is Blake Griffin, selected #1 by the L.A. Clippers, out of Oklahoma. Eight of his players have played professionally.

Benjamin Betts, Jr. – August 5, 1968

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Youth: Basketball – Amherst recreation league (late 1970s), league championship
- ACHS: Basketball (1983-86) – All-District and All-Area 2nd team (1985), All-District and All-Area 1st team (1986), regional playoffs (1986)
- Roanoke College: Basketball (1986-90) – 4-year letterman, ODAC championship, NCAA Division III tournament
- Coaching: Basketball – SC State University, assistant (1990-97), Ball State University tournament champions (1993), MEAC regular season and tournament championship (1996), NCAA tournament; College of Charleston, assistant (1997-2002), Trans-American Athletic Conference regular season and tournament championship (1998), Southern Conference regular season and tournament championship, win over UNC, undefeated conference record, NCAA tournament, final ranking #16 (1999), Southern Conference champions (2000, 2001, 2002), wins over UNC and Georgia State ((2002); VCU, assistant (2002-03); SC State University, head coach (2003-06), MEAC regular season champions (2004), wins over Penn State and Miami (2005), win over Marshall (2006); University of Oklahoma, assistant (2006-11), Pre-season NIT champions, NCAA tournament “elite eight” (2009), coached #1 draft selection, Blake Griffin (2011-12); Spectrum Sports Academy, Roanoke VA, director of basketball; Tennessee State University, assistant (2012-14), CIT post-season tournament; Indiana-Purdue Fort Wayne, assistant (2014); 8 former players drafted and played professionally